

Remarks

Claims 1-53 were pending in this application, and subject to a Restriction Requirement. Non-elected claims 1-17, 22, 23 and 27-53 have been canceled without prejudicing applicants' right to file a divisional application. Claim 24 has been amended, and new claims 54-59 have been added. Following entry of this Amendment, claims 18-21, 24-26 and 54-59 are pending. No new matter has been added.

Claim Election

In response to the restriction requirement, applicants elect, without traverse, Group III (claims 18-21), drawn to a reformer. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute non-elected claims in one or more divisional applications.

Conclusion

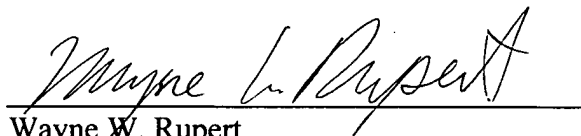
Applicants believe the present application is ready for examination, which action is requested. If any matters remain to be discussed before substantive examination, Examiner Merkling is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned for a telephone interview at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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